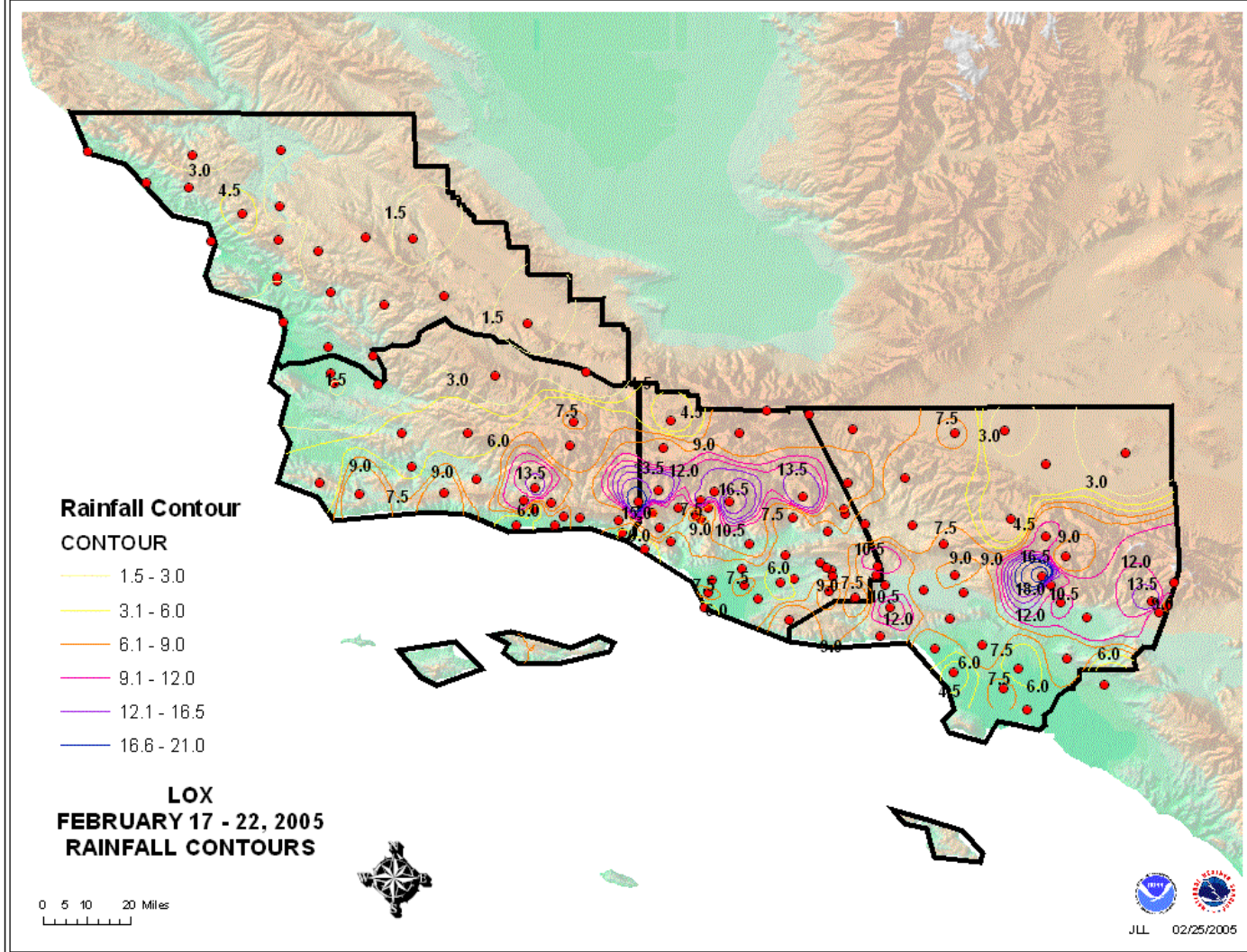


Event Summary

NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard

17-23 February 2005
Heavy Rain - Flooding - Severe
Thunderstorms - Heavy Mountain Snow



Summary

Rain...heavy at times...fell across southwestern California for nearly a week straight – from February 17th to February 23rd. The seven day rainfall total was impressive, though in general, extreme rainfall intensities were not common or widespread. High elevation heavy snow occurred with up to 9 feet of snow reported at 8000 feet. A few rounds of thunderstorms developed during the period and several storms produced low-end severe weather in the form of three quarter inch hail. A large upper level low pressure system became cut-off from westerly steering flow and parked itself off the coast of central California by February 17th. Other smaller low pressure systems and associated moisture were pulled into this cut-off low's broad circulation and were steered over southern California. Some of the systems came from high latitudes, while others were from the middle latitudes. The fact that none of the systems originated in the subtropics or really tapped into a plume of high moisture content air from the tropics saved our region from a repeat of the excessive amounts of rain we experienced in early January 2005. Nevertheless, total rainfall amounts ranging from 4 to 8 inches over the coast, 5 to 10 inches over the valleys and 10 to a little over 20 inches in the mountains did cause significant problems from southern Santa Barbara County through Los Angeles County.

Maximum Rainfall Amounts by Geographical Location 17-23 February 2005		
Mountains		
Location (County)	Rainfall (in)	Elevation (ft)
Opids Camps (LA)	21.45	4320
Old Man Mtn (Ventura)	18.68	4300
Sisar Peak (Ventura)	16.90	5200
Matilija Canyon (Ventura)	16.45	4400
Dough Flat (Ventura)	14.54	2925
Tanbark (LA)	14.32	2600
Rose Valley (Ventura)	13.95	3400
Nordhoff Ridge (Ventura)	13.78	4100
Mount Wilson (LA)	12.06	5733
Valleys/Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area		
Location (County)	Rainfall (in)	Elevation (ft)
Los Prietos (SBA)	13.77	1024
Woodland Hills (LA)	12.26	1020
Malibu Hills (LA)	9.98	1575
Circle X Ranch (Ventura)	9.78	1700
Oak View (Ventura)	9.76	577

Fagan Canyon (Ventura)	9.69	650
Chatsworth (LA)	9.59	910
Claremont (LA)	9.49	1645
Santa Susana Pass (Ventura)	9.39	765
Temescal (Ventura)	9.28	1135
Ojai (Ventura)	9.10	765
Beverly Hills (LA)	8.97	1260
Van Nuys (LA)	8.59	799
Whittier Hills (LA)	8.12	950
Coast		
Location (County)	Rainfall (in)	Elevation (ft)
L.A. Downtown (LA)	8.64	185
Oxnard (Ventura)	7.77	43
Long Beach (LA)	7.12	31
El Rio (Ventura)	7.02	79
Santa Barbara (SBA)	6.84	80
Santa Monica (LA)	6.69	175
Carpinteria (SBA)	5.95	125
La Conchita (Ventura)	5.14	20

Storm Damage

With the ground already nearly saturated from the above normal rainfall this winter, and hillsides weak and unstable, numerous mud and landslides, areas of flash flooding and even some river flooding occurred as a result of this excessive rain event. Though road closures were not as widespread as in early January, Hopper Creek in Ventura County flooded which closed Highway 126 east of Fillmore for another week. The Santa Clara River flowing through the Ventura County interior coastal valley flooded which resulted in loss of property, including part of the runway at the Santa Paula Airport. A one hundred foot wide and 30 foot deep sink hole closed a boulevard in the San Fernando Valley. The Pacific Coast Highway near Malibu, among several other roads in Los Angeles County, had to be closed for several days due to rock, mud, and/or landslide activity. Several homes perched on hillsides in Los Angeles County, including in the Hollywood Hills and Bel Air, sustained damage when either sliding down hillsides or being inundated by landslides.

Several deaths were attributed to this period of excessive rain. A civil engineer was killed in Los Angeles County when he fell into a sink hole that he was assessing. There were also two reported incidents of landslides crashing into occupied houses and killing residents. There were numerous reports of water rescues that fortunately did not result in deaths.

Ventura County crops sustained an additional \$7.5 million dollars damage (estimated), with the strawberry growers sustaining the majority of the losses. This damage is in addition to the already \$214.2 million worth of damage already sustained in Ventura County from the January storms.

For a more in-depth analysis of this event and a broader scope its impacts across California, please see the [Event Summary](#) written by the California-Nevada River Forecast Center.

NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard Event Summary Team

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Special thanks go to Jayme Laber for producing the map of rainfall totals and providing much of the information in the storm damage summary.